



This newsletter is a publication of Sister Cities of Arlington, Texas

www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

NO. 18

GREETINGS,
DEAR BK FRIENDS –

WOW!!! What a year! Our sister cities group has made some great strides. Attaining our 501(c)3 status has really given our group a big lift in exposure to the community and the ability to do bigger and greater things.

As we reported in our last newsletter, we will need to match the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation grant awarded to us for the purpose of providing a permanent location and structure in City Hall for storage of historical documents and donated items pertaining to our sister city partnership with Bad Königshofen. We ask for your help in our fundraising efforts with your tax-deductible donation, made payable to the City of Arlington. Please mail your check to:

Sister Cities of Arlington, Texas
PO Box 90231
Mail Stop 01-0310
Arlington, TX 76004

For further information about the plans for this exhibit area in City Hall, contact Ellen Brooke in the Mayor & City Council Office.

Our September picnic was a great success even with the long awaited rain showers. The German Band of North Texas provided great entertainment and kept us in the Oktoberfest mood. Special THANKS to Larry Anfin with

Coors Distributing of Fort Worth for donating cases of Becks Oktoberfest beer, Rocky Brogdon with Division Street Diner for donating the German potato salad and red cabbage, Henk's European Deli and Black Forest Bakery in Dallas for providing the sausage, and special kudos to Adnan Bahar as our grillmeister, even in the pouring rain.

We had a great crowd, including members of the Tarrant County Chapter of the Texas German Society, the UTA German Dept., the Lamar and Martin HS German program and Northstar School. Members, guests and friends enjoyed an evening of fun, food and entertainment.





Our October trip to Bad Königshofen was in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of our sister cities friendship, and our Arlington delegation included students from Martin HS and Northstar School. We were welcomed with open arms and had a wonderful visit. The relationship between the two cities is as strong as ever, and our motto “Friendship – solid as a rock” is so true. The hospitality of our Bad Königshofen friends was second to none. Their newly-dedicated Culture Arsenal and Partnership House is phenomenal. A few of us also visited Rothenburg ob der Tauber to establish contacts for our first-ever Christkindl Market. That was also a success!!! We were able to meet with the city’s tourism director and we found a merchant who then shipped us goods for us to sell at our market.

When we returned, we hit the ground running with our preparations for the Christkindl Market and for our float in the Parade of Lights. The Christkindl Angel in our hut on the float was another big success, again even in the rain!!!



The weather forecast for the market is clear and cold, perfect weather for the market. We hope everyone comes out and enjoys the four-day event, and tells all their friends about it as well.

Bis dann, Bruce Maxwell

GERMAN BAND ENTERTAINS AT BAD KÖNIGSHOFEN PICNIC

By Magda Shafer

We were very fortunate to get Dr. Edward Lobb and his German Band of North Texas to come and play for us at our picnic. They played a variety of compositions, which were a pleasure to listen to and sing along with.



We are very fortunate to have a German band in our area. Dr. Lobb founded the band several years ago, and they have been practicing once every week ever since.

Conductor Lobb is always looking for new sheet music and goes to a lot of trouble finding it. Not so long ago, he learned that when the German Army was on retreat near the end of WW II, they left a wealth of sheet music behind in Norway. He traveled there to get copies. He likes his presentations to sound like the German arrangements, which is somewhat different than American presentations because the valves on tenor horns, rotary valve Flügelhorns and rotary valve trumpets are constructed in a different way and therefore produce a different sound than instruments made elsewhere. For this reason he likes to

purchase as many German made instruments as possible, all to get that real German sound.

Dr. Lobb has enriched our lives tremendously by giving many concerts in the area for several years. If anyone is interested, the band has made several recordings, which are for sale.

ONE TRIP TO GERMANY – THREE REUNIONS

By Shelia Gibson

Reunions of family and good friends are special times in life. That was exactly the focus of our October 5-17, 2011 trip to Germany as we began planning our trip in early 2011. The primary purpose of our trip was, of course, the 60th Anniversary celebration (1951-2011) of our sister cities partnership with our friends in Bad Königshofen (BK), Germany. And this time Don went with me!

After much discussion, our sister cities trip was finally and officially committed to the dates October 13-17. The good news was that by October Don and I were able to plan our trip to include visits with family and friends elsewhere in Germany, expanding it to almost two weeks, and evolving into a three-part reunion with:

(1) My Beard (maiden name) family members in the Grafenhausen/Darmstadt area,

(2) Doug and Gail Olney, Texas friends and former AAFES co-workers of my husband Don Higgins, who had relocated to Mainz, Germany in July 2011, and

(3) Lastly, our newfound “family” and BK friends, three generations of the Heumann family. In 2007 Julia Burgen and I met and were hosted by Elvira and Albin Heumann at their German Guest Haus (B&B). Since 2007, via the marvels of electronics (FaceBook, e-mails, and Skype), Don and I have been introduced to two other generations of the Heumann family: daughter Monika and baby boy Valentin, born in February 2011, and his father Mikael. Our October 2011 trip gave me and my husband Don the opportunity to

connect with and meet all three generations of our BK host family.

On the first leg of our trip we arrived in Frankfurt October 6 to visit with my family in the Grafenhausen/ Darmstadt area.



There we visited with my cousin Karen Beard and met the newest family member, her two-year-old son Jake, adopted from Russia in August 2010.

Jake joins his older brother, nine-year-old Austin, named after Austin, TX where his mother Karen (American US Army father/German mother) attended the University of Texas and received her Master's degree. Speaking five languages, Karen was then offered a job with the USDOD (Air Force) in Germany in AF intelligence work. Karen's return to Germany and her new job gave us several opportunities to visit back and forth in the US and Germany. In fact, our honeymoon trip when Don and I married in 1996 included touring Europe three weeks, while singing with the Tarrant Lutheran Chorale in Germany for two of those weeks, with side trips to the Czech Republic and to Austria. By then Don was hooked—on Germany, as well as by me ☺!.



With Karen's return to Germany, it gave me many opportunities to visit her, tour Europe together and stay in touch. Karen and I became close while she was going to UT back in the early 1990s, and the family bond has continued ever since. Another dimension to our Beard family reunion in Germany was the visit by Karen's brother Martin Beard, a retired US Air Force Officer from Florida, and his wife Stephanie-yes, definitely a wonderful family reunion. The highlight, however, was Karen's wedding engagement announcement one night at a family dinner and introduction of yet another new family member who subsequently joined the ranks of the Beard family on 11/11/11 at 11 am, Robert "Rob" Thompson. Rob and Karen married in November in Denmark, and he became father to adopted sons Jake and Austin, completing Karen's family with their marriage. We look forward to attending Karen and Rob's US wedding ceremony planned for June 2012 in Minneapolis, in the Lutheran Church where Rob was raised and attended Lutheran parochial school. With so much family activity, we were still able to make a side trip with Rob & Karen to Trier, Fort Worth's sister city and known as Germany's oldest city, full of Roman ruins, including the Porta Nigra (Black Gate), the largest surviving Roman city gate north of the Alps.

By October 9, the second leg of our trip took us to Mainz, Germany, where Doug Olney, Don's former architectural colleague at AAFES (Army-Air Force Exchange International Headquarters Office in Dallas) is currently employed. Doug and his wife Gail had previously lived in Germany for several years on an earlier AAFES assignment, returning to the Dallas office in 2004. The Olneys were the perfect hosts and tour guides, sharing their favorite wineries, restaurants, historic sites, and city secrets of non-tourist experiences and opportunities that only the locals know, and all in a whirlwind five-day tour all up and down the Rhine River area. The weather cooperated and it was a wonderful experience. We tried to get them to come on to BK with us, since the Olneys attended the 2009 German Pioneer Ball with us, the last time a delegation from BK visited Arlington. However, a business trip to

Italy intervened for Doug, and they had to cancel joining us for the BK portion of our trip.

The final leg of our trip began October 13 with our return to Frankfurt Airport, where we met up with the Arlington delegation arriving from DFW Airport. After experiencing a German "Stau" (traffic jam on the Autobahn) that delayed our arrival at Frankfurt Airport, we joined the arriving Arlington delegation and were then all greeted by BK citizens for our bus trip to Bad Königshofen, including stops along the way at a scenic castle, Mespelbrunn, later for lunch at the Heimathenhof, and finally a stop at the Divino Winery for a little wine tasting. It was the beginning of a short, but glorious, four days in celebration of our 60th Anniversary celebration.

Later that same afternoon, on our arrival in BK, and with tears of joy, we were met by a delegation of townspeople and by members of all three generations of the Heumann family. It was our first face-to-face meeting with daughter Monika and her eight-month-old bouncing baby boy Valentin, quite an emotional welcome. And then when we arrived at our host home and opened the door to the same cottage where Julia Burgen and I stayed during our first trip to BK four years ago, I looked at Don and said, "We are home!!" And it truly felt that way the remainder of the trip.

Many are reluctant to travel to a foreign country due to the language barrier. Regardless of the fact that Monika is the only member of the Heumann family who speaks much English, and Don and I are still perfecting our German, we have learned that playing "Charades" and sharing music, the universal language of all cultures, is the key to enjoying the hospitality and culture among our international family of friends. We are looking forward to 2012, when we are anticipating the arrival of Monika, Mikael and Valentin as Elvira and Albin Heumann pass the baton to the next generation of our BK family friends!

When we look back now, we realize all three legs of our trip were really like family reunions, with good friends often becoming the "family of choice." We are excited about having met

new generational members of our German-American family both in the Heumann family in BK and in the Beard-Thompson Family in Grafenhausen/Darmstadt! It was like Christmas in October for both of us!

FEATURE STORY

By Eric English

This article is in regards to the recent 60th Anniversary sister city trip. It is also to thank Mayor Cluck, Ellen Brooke, Bruce Maxwell and the Martin High administrators for their help in obtaining an excused absence for our daughter Megan. Their hard work and the school's cooperation enabled Megan to join us on this truly unique and memorable trip.

An educator once said that many of life's most important lessons don't necessarily come in the classroom. I believe this trip is one of those instances, but not just for Megan. The Northstar students and the first-time visitors all came away with a new understanding and appreciation for what was started 60 years ago. And the seasoned visitors will all acknowledge that they left with an even deeper and stronger bond.

Most of the members of our sister city group, our city, and anyone who visits Bad Königshofen are all enjoying the water from a well that we did not dig. But the continued success of this well is predicated on the involvement of our youth. We need the next generation to continue to tell the story, to pass on the experiences and to live out this mutual appreciation and friendship.

As much as I tried to explain the relationship to Megan, or to anyone else who would listen, I have found it impossible to adequately or accurately describe the depth of this rock solid friendship. People could see my enthusiasm for our sister city; however, they really couldn't "get it," as words do not adequately reflect nor do it justice. You see, first-hand involvement is required to fully appreciate and feel the love that is shared between the citizens of these two cities. And that is why it was important for Megan and the other students to make the trip.

Megan had the honor of staying with her friend Annabell, who is Mayor and Mrs. Helbling's daughter. The girls had met on two previous occasions and had been communicating and planning prior to the trip. Upon our arrival, Annabell introduced Megan and the Northstar students to her friends. One highlight from Megan's adventure was showing the host kids how to make "s'mores" while they were sitting around a fire pit. Megan was amazed at the vast differences in the school systems, and yet how they had been hanging out – "just like we do back home." Steffi Beck and her mother Petra, our host, dressed Megan up in the traditional Bavarian dress (Dirndl). Then Petra painstakingly braided her hair. Megan looked so authentic that a few BK ladies talked to her in German at the Oktoberfest party. She presented an album of songs to the German bandleader on behalf of Professor Lobb, director of the German Band of North Texas. (He is also her Tarrant County College Government professor.)



Megan presenting a disc of songs to the bandleader on behalf of Prof. Lobb,

And she introduced us to two families who had expressed a desire to visit Arlington. We are hoping they will allow us the opportunity to be their host in the near future. There are many other memories resulting from this trip that will last a lifetime. A few include: her motorcycle ride, dancing with her at the farewell banquet, and when we departed that early morning,

seeing Megan misty-eyed as she settled in on the bus ... just like many others.

That is when we realized that she not only understood the relationship, but that she really "Got It".



Megan with former Mayor Tom Vandergriff and Theda Howell (July 4, 2001).

FROM BAD KÖNIGSHOFEN

By Martha Liehsel

Bad Königshofen's local newspaper provided lots of great coverage of the visit of our Arlington delegation in October. Before heading back to Frankfurt on October 17, the Arlington folks received copies of the October 15 article with the headline (translated) "In grand style – Nowitzki sends his greetings," that phrasing referring of course to Arlington's gift of a pair of Dirk Nowitzki's autographed shoes for Bürgermeister Helbling.

But news coverage of the visit continued even after the Arlington delegation had departed, with two articles appearing on October 18. One of them, with the headline "Texas-Girl meets Blasmusik," begins with the sentences (in translation): "The guests from the sister city Arlington, Texas were enthusiastic about everything. 'So much was offered us. We are impressed.' Those and other songs of praise were heard again and again during the four-day visit of the Texans in Bad Königshofen, whether at the Oktoberfest in the 'Trink- und Wandelhalle,' during the trip to the Rhön,

during the visit to the schools or at the exhibit opening in the 'Kulturarsenal Darre.'" Among the highlights included in the article is, of course, an account of what the article's headline refers to: "There was even a tuba contest during which Lynda Freeman from Arlington was able to coax a few notes out of the instrument even though she had never played such an instrument. For those efforts there was an award and applause."

The second article that day has the English headline "It's so wonderful!" followed by the subheading (translated here) "The guests from Arlington very much enjoyed their visit in Bad Königshofen." That article also cites events during the visit and tells about the many times "It's so wonderful!" was expressed by the visitors.

The October 19 newspaper also provided two articles, one with an overview of the "Partnership" art exhibit, which opened during the Arlington delegation's visit. The theme of the exhibit had been chosen to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Bad Königshofen's partnership with Arlington and the 20th Anniversary with Römhild. The article also tells of the contributions of Arlington's Northstar School to the exhibit and the visit of the three students from that school.

A second October 19 article has the headline in English "See you next year in Arlington" followed by the subheading in German (here translated) "Strangers became friends and the sister cities partnership got new impulses." Here's a translation of the article's first paragraph: "Monday morning just before five o'clock, 'See you next year in Arlington' was heard at the Tuchbleiche parking lot as the delegation from Arlington, Texas said goodbye after four days in Bad Königshofen. There were many tears, and the hugs wouldn't come to an end. The Königshofen folks sang 'Muss i denn zum Städtele hinaus' and the guests from Arlington sang 'The Eyes of Texas.' Thus the special days of friendship came to an end. Bürgermeister Thomas Helbling and many hosts promised to come to Arlington next year to celebrate there the 60 years of partnership."

“Beautiful Days mit den Freunden aus Texas” is the title of an October 22 article. (That headline doesn’t need a translation!) It was written by Alfred Kordwig, who is editor of the newspaper and who with his wife hosted Arlington’s Amy Tinch in their home. Following are some translated excerpts from the article, with many references to Amy: “For the 50th Anniversary of the partnership ten years ago, the Arlington lady was in Bad Königshofen for the first time. That time she stayed in a hotel, but this time she has allowed the ‘adventure’ of staying with private hosts, just like most of the guests from Arlington.... The first impression of our Amy and the other guests from Arlington: They are really all so nice, just as host families from earlier visits enthusiastically described them. And nothing changes concerning that impression even up to the day of departure.... Great concentration is also required to converse with Amy, since the last conversation in English for her hosts is quite a few years ago. Amy notices it right away. She speaks not so fast and in short, easy-to-understand sentences. As the days go by, understanding improves, which is very practical, for Amy tells us a lot – about her city, her family, her profession, and that she has always enjoyed guests visiting from Bad Königshofen. Then she unpacks gifts for her hosts. There are many. Very many. How she fit all of them in her luggage will remain her secret.... As expected, the guests from Arlington are brimming with initiative.... Nothing on the schedule is left out, and as often as possible, friendships from earlier partnership visits are kept up between the official events.... It is also unbelievable how quickly the days with the American guests go by. Monday at 4:30 a.m. at the bus, which would take part of the group to the airport in Frankfurt, Amy promises to let us know when she has arrived home safely. Not 20 hours later then an e-mail from her. Attached are many photos she took in Bad Königshofen, with the remark that the time with us was ‘so wonderful.’ “

A LONGTIME FRIEND

Update by Martha Liehse



Photo of Rony Werner and her sister Susi Eschenbach

Bad Königshofen resident Susi Eschenbach is a longtime supporter of our sister cities partnership, was a member of the first delegation visiting Arlington in 1988, and has many friends in Arlington. She was in the hospital during our recent October visit in Bad Königshofen, and Gerhard and Martha Liehse were so happy to be able to visit her at her sister’s home in the lovely Bavarian town Lohr am Main at the end of their Germany trip in November.

WHY STUDY GERMAN AT UTA?

By Klaus Driessen,

German Is...

- The doorway to the culture of the largest linguistic group in Central Europe.
- The new second language of choice in Eastern Europe and a language that is gaining on English as the preferred second language in Western Europe.
- A way to understand more about your own language.
- A vital part of Texas culture.

Learn German and You Can...

Improve your marketability.

- Join the international business community through UTA's unique international business and German major leading to a Bachelor of Business Administration. This program combines business courses, German courses, and courses in German business.
- Combine a major (or minor) in German with yet another major to strengthen your qualifications as a candidate in the job market or when applying to grad school.

Teach or work towards an advanced degree in German.

- Complete part of your university study at a top university abroad or immersion program in the States.
- Through UTA you can study in immersion programs in Taos, New Mexico, or in semester programs abroad. Credits can be transferred to UTA to fill your major, minor, or core curriculum requirements.

Get a broader perspective on life.

- ...by understanding how another culture sees it through its literature, press, film/TV industry-and people.
- ...or take part in exchanges in Austria and Germany.

How Hard Is It?

- **German is not difficult to learn.** German is historically related to English and shares many words and structures with English. With two years of university German you can begin to function well-reading, writing, speaking, and understanding spoken German-with native speakers in everyday situations. You will have the basis for developing advanced and specialized ability in German.

Why Is UTA the Place to Study German?

- **UTA has useful programs in German: Literature, Culture, Languages, Business and Teaching.** In addition to excellent programs in literature,

teaching, and language, UTA is the only place in the Metroplex where you can combine business and German into one degree. You can also receive a B.A. and an M.A. in German, and a Ph.D. (in Humanities) here at UTA.

- **It fulfills the language requirement using a coordinated package of materials.** You can meet the UTA Foreign Language Requirement by taking our one-year intensive or two-year sequenced program. If you have had some German within the last five



years, it is also possible that your placement test scores will allow you to start at UTA at a higher level, which will give you college credit for levels earned, as well as the opportunity to receive grades for those credits.

- **Take just three more courses for a minor in German.** With just three more courses beyond the requirement, you can have a minor in German and be eligible for the Goethe Institute proficiency certification, which is recognized the world over.
- **UTA is a testing center for internationally recognized German proficiency certification.** Since UTA is a testing center for the Goethe Institute, after six semesters you can take the Zertifikat Deutsch als Fremdsprache test at our on-campus site. Other testing

sites include Houston, Texas.

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- **German students at UTA are eligible for the German Honors Society.** Upper level students with a good grade point average in German are eligible for membership in the prestigious national German Honors Society, Delta Phi Alpha.
- **UTA has exciting courses.** We use up-to-date and interesting materials in all our language, literature, culture, and business classes. Often we incorporate video and computer information directly into our courses, providing you with current thought on all issues.
- **Any extra-curricular activities? O ja!!** The UTA German Club is active on campus and is always looking for new members and new ideas for sharing an interest in things German. Students meet on Wednesdays to speak German, hear a speaker, or plan activities. German Club members make field trips to New Braunfels, Texas, and Germany, as well as closer places in the Metroplex. German immigrant culture is alive and well in Texas, and there are many German events in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

NOTE

Thank you. Your kindness meant so very much.

The Sister Cities group is a very special group of people. It was never more evident to me than during the recent passing of my brother, Johnny. Thank you for the comfort you provided, the cards, calls, visits and lovely fall chrysanthemums.

With gratitude, Sheri Capehart